NEW AVENGERS

HICKMAN
BIANCHI
DALL'ALPI

MARVEL

MARVEL
CAPTAIN AMERICA
THE WINTER SOLDIER
IN THEATERS APRIL 4

PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS

EVERYTHING DIES. YOU. ME. EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET. IT'S INEVITABLE, AND I HAVE COME TO ACCEPT IT. WHAT I FIND ***UNACCEPTABLE*** IS THE UNNATURAL ACCELERATION OF THAT END.

ON AN ALTERNATE EARTH AN EVENT OCCURRED THAT CAUSED THE EARLY DEATH OF A UNIVERSE. THIS CAUSED A TINY CONTRACTION, SMASHING TWO UNIVERSES TOGETHER AT THE INCURSION POINT OF THE INITIAL EVENT.

"EACH INCURSION LASTS EIGHT HOURS, AFTER WHICH EITHER BOTH WORLDS ARE DESTROYED, OR ONLY ONE EARTH IS SACRIFICED, SPARING BOTH UNIVERSES.

"WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETECT THE INCURSIONS SO WE'LL KNOW WHEN ONE IS COMING. HOWEVER...

"INFINITE WORLDS, INFINITE OUTCOMES. IF THIS COULD EASILY BE STOPPED, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED."

BLACK SWAN. I'M TOLD YOU JUMPED HERE FROM ANOTHER WORLD...THAT YOU HAD SOME KIND OF DEVICE, AND THEN YOU DESTROYED THE PLANET YOU CAME FROM.

WE WILL TRY EVERY GOOD AND RIGHTEOUS SOLUTION WE CAN.

THE TURN OF THE WHEEL BREAKS HOPE--IT CRUSHES WHAT MAKES US DECENT AND STEALS WHAT LITTLE HONOR REMAINS.

AND WHEN THOSE DON'T WORK?

YOU WILL NEED THE MIRROR FOR ANY NUMBER OF INEVITABLE ADVERSARIES, BUT YOU SHOULD PRIMARILY CONCERN YOURSELVES WITH THE BLACK PRIESTS.

ALL INCURSIONS HAVE THE SAME PARAMETERS AND CAN BE FOUND AND OBSERVED THROUGH A PROCESS. I CAN BUILD IT. I'VE ACTUALLY BUILT ONE BEFORE. WHAT SHE CALLS A MIRROR, I CALLED THE BRIDGE.

YOU UNDERSTAND. IF YOU USE THE MIRROR AND FOCUS YOUR NEEDS...

"...YOU CAN OBSERVE OTHER INCURSIONS AS THEY ARE OCCURRING."

THE ILLUMINATI

BLACK BOLT
Celestial Messiah

NAMOR
Imperius Rex

REED RICHARDS
Universal Builder

IRON MAN
Master of Machines

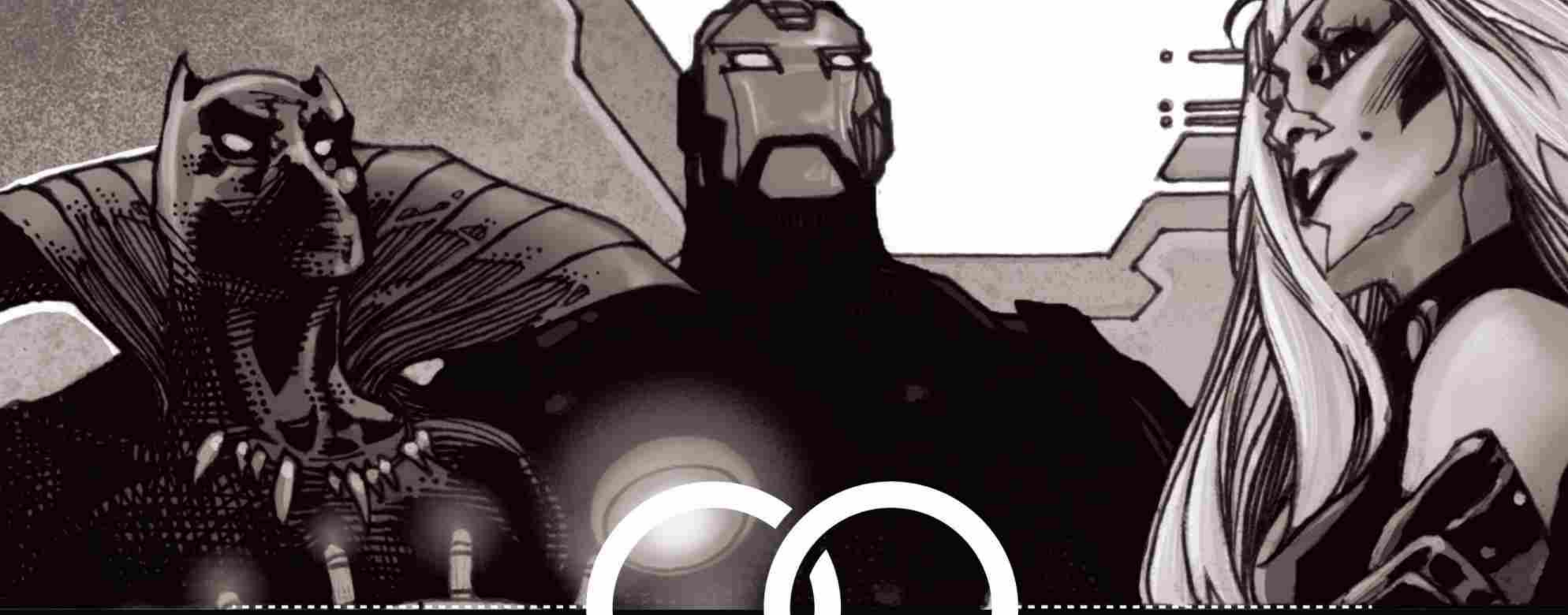
BEAST
Hero of Legend

DOCTOR STRANGE
Sorcerer Supreme

BLACK PANTHER
King of the Dead

BLACK SWAN
Incursion Survivor

MAXIMUS
Inhuman Madman



“SEE HOW THE SWANS FLY”

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WAKANDA.
THE NECROPOLIS.

WHY ARE WE MISSING PEOPLE?

I SPOKE WITH NAMOR. HE SAID THAT UNLESS THE WORLD WAS ENDING, HE WOULD RETURN LATER IN THE WEEK.

I TRIED TO CONVEY HOW URGENT THIS WAS...

AND?

HE EXPRESSED HIS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN OUR ABILITY TO "MUFF A SQUID" WITHOUT HIM.

HRMPT!

WHAT ABOUT STRANGE?

NOTHING. FOR DAYS NOW.

AND IT'S NOT JUST A LACK OF RESPONSE... HIS IMPLANT HAS DISAPPEARED--HE'S COMPLETELY OFF-GRID.

IT IMPLIES THAT HE'S LEFT THIS WORLD FOR SOME OTHER PLANE.

UNLESS, OF COURSE, IT'S SUBTERFUGE...AND THE GOOD DOCTOR SEEKS A SAVVY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE GAME TO END ALL GAMES.

SHOULD WE WAIT? OR...

I DON'T THINK WE CAN.

HENRY, PLEASE...

LET'S SHOW EVERYONE WHAT YOU'VE DISCOVERED.

YES. WELL... OBSERVATION.

CATALOGING INCURSIONS HAS, AS YOU VERY WELL KNOW, BEEN A BLEAK AND DISHEARTENING ENDEAVOR. I'M HONESTLY NOT SURE WHICH IS WORSE...

THE WAY ALL WORLDS END: HORRIBLY.

OR THE SHOCKINGLY REPETITIVE NATURE OF WHAT WE'RE LEARNING...

"EITHER BLACK PRIESTS AGGRESSIVELY PROTECTING THEIR ARCANE HOME EARTHS...

"MAPMAKERS SYSTEMATICALLY MINING THE MULTIVERSE FOR EARTHS TO DESTROY...

"OR TWO UNIVERSES DYING AS EARTHS COLLIDE."

THE THING, HOWEVER, ABOUT REPETITION IS IF YOU WITNESS SOMETHING ENOUGH TIMES, YOU BEGIN TO PICK UP ON INCREMENTAL DIFFERENCES.

IN THIS CASE, I NOTICED SOMETHING ODD... *DECAY*.

DECAY?

YOU MEAN OF THE IMAGE? SOUND? WHAT?

TIME. I'M NOT AS PROFICIENT AS... ACTUALLY...

REED, IT'S THE SPECIFICS OF *YOUR* MACHINE, COULD YOU...?

OF COURSE.

THINK OF IT LIKE DOPPLER SHIFT.

THE SAME NOISE SOUNDS DIFFERENT APPROACHING YOU THAN MOVING AWAY FROM YOU.

ROUGHLY THE SAME PRINCIPLE APPLIES CELESTIALLY-- RED AND BLUE SHIFT FOR THE CONTRACTION AND EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSE.

WHAT HENRY NOTICED IS, FUNDAMENTALLY, THIS SAME CONCEPT.

AS YOU KNOW, THE BRIDGE PRIMARILY FUNCTIONS AS AN OBSERVATION DEVICE.

THE DATA SET FOR RUNNING A SEARCH THROUGH BOTH ALL REALITIES AND ALL TIMES IS INFINITE, AND THEREFORE NOT OBSERVABLE. WELL, OBSERVABLE IN THE SENSE THAT--

YOU'RE MAKING MY TEETH HURT, REED.

ALL RIGHT, THE POINT: IF WE TRIED TO DO THAT--LOOK AT EVERYTHING-- THE MACHINE WOULD NEVER STOP THINKING, AND WE WOULD NEVER GET TO "SEE" ANY RESULTS.

SO WHEN I BUILT IT, I LIMITED IT TO TAKING...FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD, A ***SNAPSHOT*** OF ALL REALITIES AT THAT SINGLE MOMENT.

AND THAT'S WHAT THE BRIDGE SEARCHES...SNAPSHOTS OF MULTIVERSES, STACKED SIDE-BY-SIDE.

ONCE WE FIND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR--UP UNTIL NOW, INCURSIONS--WE BASICALLY TUNE INTO THAT MULTIVERSAL "STATION" AND OBSERVE THAT SNAPSHOT GOING FORWARD. WHICH BRINGS US TO HENRY...

AND HOW THINGS ARE WORSE THAN WE EVER IMAGINED.

MANY WORLDS IMPLIES MANY VARIABLES. PERHAPS ON ONE EARTH, THE SOVIET UNION NEVER FELL. ON ANOTHER, MAN NEVER LANDED ON THE MOON.

THIS IS PRETTY MUCH THE FOUNDATION OF EVERY PIECE OF BAD SCIENCE FICTION EVER WRITTEN.

BUT IT'S ***REAL*** AND WE'RE SEEING IT--AND IN SEEING IT OFTEN, I BEGAN TO NOTICE THINGS THAT SEEMED TOO...OFF. TEMPORALLY SPEAKING.

AH! YOU MEAN...IT'S LIKE SEEING STARS IN THE NIGHT SKY, DON'T YOU? EACH ONE A DIFFERENT DISTANCE AWAY, AND THEREFORE THE LIGHT A DIFFERENT AGE AND...

YES.

OH, THEN THAT MEANS...

YES.

LOOK, I'M A BILLIONAIRE INVENTOR--CONSIDERED PRETTY SMART BY MOST...

AND, OH MY GOD, I'M GOING TO ***KILL*** ONE OF YOU IF YOU DON'T JUST SPIT IT OUT.

HE MEANS THE FURTHER AWAY FROM THE CENTER POINT OF OBSERVATION, WE'RE NOT JUST LOOKING AT DIFFERENT UNIVERSES...WE'RE LOOKING AT DIFFERENT ***TIMES***.

SO WE CAN USE THIS TO LOOK INTO THE PAST AS WELL AS THE FUTURE.

ACTUALLY, MOSTLY JUST THE PAST. WE'VE DISCOVERED THAT THE FUTURE'S PROBABILITY CURVE BENDS THE OPPOSITE WAY.

THERE ARE ONLY MINUTES, MAYBE AN HOUR OR TWO DEPENDING ON PROXIMITY, OF OBSERVABLE FUTURE.

SO YOU'RE THINKING THAT WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE YOU CAN FURTHER INVESTIGATE...AND PERHAPS FIND THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS END-TIMES-END-OF-MAN DRAMA.

GET RIGHT TO THE HEART OF IT.

ANTHONY... I ENCOURAGE YOU TO BE A LITTLE MORE AMBITIOUS IN YOUR THINKING.

AFTER ALL, THE REALLY ***GOOD*** STUFF IS GROWING ON THE SKIN.

RIGHT. THANKS.

BUT I THINK THE REST OF US WOULD AGREE THAT WE'RE BETTER OFF STAYING ON TASK.

ACTUALLY...

HE HAS A POINT. HENRY AND I DID EXACTLY WHAT MAXIMUS IS TALKING ABOUT. AND IT'S WHAT I WANTED YOU ALL TO SEE...

CONCLUSIONS-- GOOD ONES--ALL SPRING FROM RAW DATA. WE QUESTIONED THE PURITY OF OUR KNOWLEDGE.

CONSIDERING OUR SOURCE, REED AND I DECIDED TO RUN A BROADER SEARCH.

FOR WHAT?

SWANS.

"THE A.I. RUNNING THE BRIDGE'S SEARCH FUNCTION IS STILL SPOOLING THROUGH MULTIPLE SEARCH RETURNS...

"BUT SO FAR WE'VE FOUND THREE INSTANCES CONTAINING THE PERSON WE BELIEVE TO BE *OUR* BLACK SWAN.

"THIS IS THE FIRST ONE."

ZAAAAK

YOU MAY COME OUT NOW, CHILD.

IS IT DEAD?

THE BLACK PRIESTS ARE NOT ALIVE IN THE SENSE THAT YOU AND I ARE, YABBOT.

THEY ARE MORE LIKE... ANIMATED *THINGS* THAT FEIGN LIFE. ABOMINATIONS THAT CHEAT THE GREAT WHEEL.

WE CAN DESTROY THEM-- ALL *THINGS* CAN BE DESTROYED--BUT THAT IS NOT WHY WE ARE HERE, IS IT?

NO.

THE LIBRARY LIES ON A SEPARATE AXIS THAN THE WORLDS TO WHICH IT OPENS. SO WHILE IT HAS BEEN YEARS SINCE YOU LEFT THIS PLACE-- AND IT IS LONG GONE-- WE HAVE RETURNED MERE MOMENTS AFTER YOU FOUND YOUR WAY TO US.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?

OF COURSE I AM.

"THEN HURRY, LITTLE SISTER.

"I WILL HOLD THE DOOR OPEN AS LONG AS I CAN."

I'M SORRY, DADINGRA...

THEY HAVE TAUGHT ME THAT RABUM ALAL HAS NEEDS GREATER THAN OUR OWN--WE ALL SERVE THE WHEEL...

BUT THERE ARE REWARDS FOR THE FAITHFUL.

AND I WILL BE FAITHFUL.

FOR THE BOTH OF US.

BOOM!

WHAT IIIIIIIIS THIIIIIIIIIIS?

A LIIIIIIITTLE SWAN LOST HER WAY?

NO, YOU MONSTER... I'M *NOT* LOST.

THIS WAS MY *HOME!*

ZZZZAAAAMM!

DO YOU HAVE IT?

YES! LET'S GO!

ONCE AGAIIIIIIIN, THEY MOVE TO THAT OTHER PLACE WE CANNOT FIIIIIIIND.

ALL THOSE WORLDS, HIIIIIIDIIIIIIG BEHIIIIIND THOSE DOORS.

LOST TO US. OUTSIIIIDE OUR REACH.

PERHAPS... PERHAPS NOT.

WE NOW HAVE A KEY.

AND THAT'S WHERE IT ENDS REGARDING THE BLACK SWAN.

THE PRIESTS LEAVE SHORTLY AFTER DESTROYING THE WORLD, AND IT SEEMS THAT THE BRIDGE CANNOT OBSERVE PAST THE DOOR...

MEANING...THIS LIBRARY LIES OUTSIDE THE OBSERVABLE MULTIVERSE.

DOES IT MATTER? DIDN'T THE SWAN SAY IT WAS DESTROYED?

I THINK, PERHAPS, WE MIGHT NEED TO REVISIT WHAT IS AND IS NOT ACCEPTED TRUTH REGARDING HER.

BEFORE WE GET TO THAT... HERE'S THE SECOND THING WE FOUND.

MY GOD.

WHY DOES IT END LIKE THAT? ISN'T THERE MORE?

NO. IT JUST WINKS IN AND OUT OF...I'M NOT SURE IF ***EXISTENCE*** IS THE CORRECT PHRASE, BUT IT'S ***THERE*** AND THEN IT'S ***NOT***.

BUT IT GETS WORSE.

"WATCH."

LIKE THIS. KI WASSURU.

WHY?

WE GIVE HIM PRAISE BECAUSE OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN HIS NAME.

WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MUCH...AND LOOK WHAT HE HAS GIVEN US: A GREATER OFFERING.

A NEW WORLD.

AND THAT'S IT?

THAT'S ALL THERE IS?

WERE YOU EXPECTING MORE, *RICHARDS?*

DID I PROMISE YOU MORE?

ALL WE WANTED TO DO WAS SAVE OUR WORLD.

AND I TOLD YOU... MANY, MANY TIMES...

THERE IS *NO SAVING* YOUR WORLD. THERE IS NO SAVING... ANYTHING.

THERE IS ONLY THE WHEEL.

SUHARRURU! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THIS HAS COST US?

WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO HELP YOU, ***BELIEVING*** THAT THIS COULD BE AVOIDED?

YES, ***ANTHONY.*** YOU'VE SACRIFICED ALL THAT YOU HAD.

YOU FOUND THIS WORLD'S ***MANIFOLD*** SO THAT ***HE*** COULD BE USED AS RABUM ALAL INTENDED...

YOU'VE KILLED THOSE YOU CALLED FRIENDS...

AND YOU'VE DONE IT VERY, VERY WELL.

NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS YOUR REWARD.

WE CAN STOP YOU.

YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T.

SO... WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

OF COURSE YOU DO. YOU CAN COME WITH ME, OR DIE HERE WITH YOUR EARTH.

BUT SURELY A CLEVER MAN LIKE YOU KNEW THAT ALREADY.

FLAME ON!

NO.

?

WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHAT I NEEDED TO.

HE WAS BRILLIANT LIKE THE SUN...SO THAT'S WHERE I SENT HIM.

LAST CHANCE, STARK.

ARE YOU A KILLER OF WORLDS...OR JUST YOUR OWN?

YOU GO TO HELL.

WHAT DO YOU THINK EARTH *IS*, LITTLE MAN?

SKRAK!

SO...WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS?

NECROPOLIS.
LATER.

DAMU RABUM ALAL! DAMU UGGAE!

NAPAHU QUPPU! YABBOT DUGNAMTAR!

WARDUM ANA SIMTIM ALAKU.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, YOU STUPID, STUPID MEN?

RABUM ALAL IS COMING FOR *EVERYTHING.*

AND WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND *WHAT* HE IS--WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND *WHO* HE IS...

YOU'LL KNOW THAT I WAS RIGHT, AND YOU SO COMPLETELY WRONG.

ANA SIMTIM ALAKU.

THEN YOU WILL DIE, THINKING OF ME...WHO WILL BE SO VERY LONG GONE.

I'M SORRY, BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

MAKE PEACE WITH FINALITY, SWAN...

YOU'RE NEVER GETTING OUT OF THAT CELL.

EPILOGUE.

I WILL NOT TELL YOU THAT YOU WON'T MISS YOUR FREEDOM.

YOU WILL.

BUT I HAVE FOUND THAT...THIS **EXISTENCE** PROVIDES ME THE SOLITUDE NECESSARY TO TRULY CONTEMPLATE OUR PLACE IN THESE...THE LAST GASPS OF A DYING MULTIVERSE.

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO BE THANKFUL?

THIS IS THE WISDOM OF TERRAX THE ENLIGHTENED?

I'M SAYING THAT IN HERE IT SEEMS EVERYTHING STAYS THE SAME, WHILE **OUT THERE** EVERYTHING CONTINUES TO DIE.

I BELIEVE IN THE WHEEL--I DO NOT SEEK LIFE, HERALD.

I AM NOT LOOKING TO SAVE MYSELF OR AVOID MY FATE!

LIFE. DEATH. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? TIME? WHAT FOOL SEES **THAT** AS A CONSTANT?

IT'S ALL YOUR WHEEL, ISN'T IT? DO THE TWO NOT BECOME THE SAME?

YOU HAVE A POINT TO MAKE?

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE *MAD TITAN* COURTED DEATH--NOT UNLIKE YOURSELF.

TELL ME... HAVE YOU NOTICED WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THANOS' CUBE?

LIFE.

I HAVE CONTEMPLATED OUR SITUATION AND ARRIVED AT A PROFOUND TRUTH.

WOULD YOU CARE TO HEAR IT, MISTRESS?

YES.

THERE ARE NO CONSTANTS.

THEY COULD NO MORE KEEP US HERE FOREVER, THAN THEY COULD REMAIN FREE THEMSELVES...

THEY WILL FALL--ALL MEN DO.

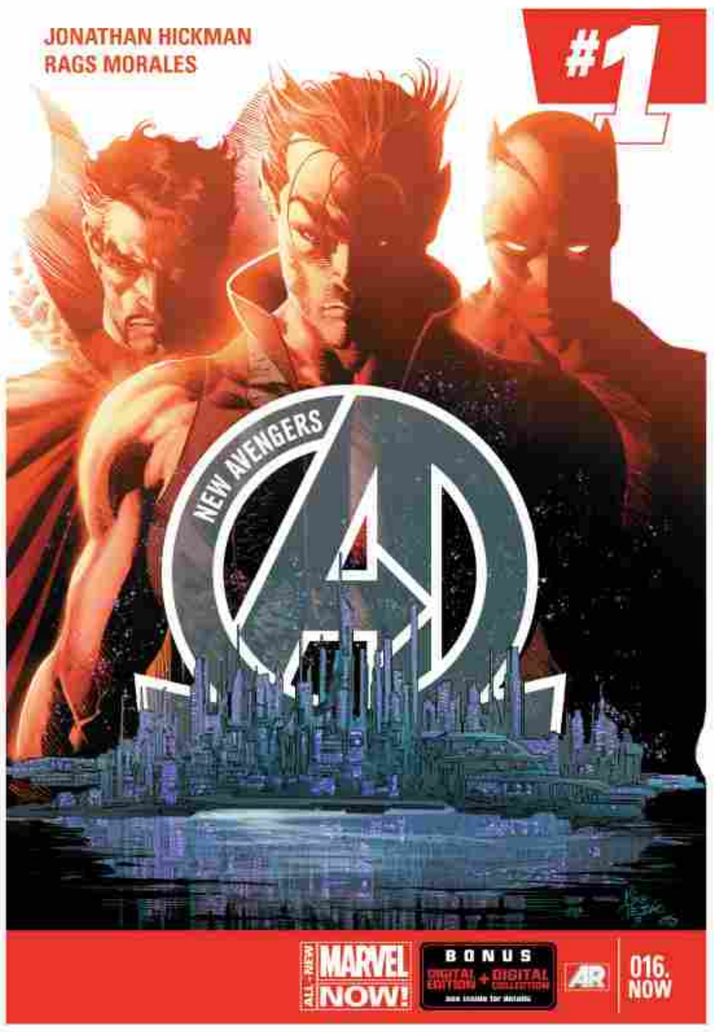
AND WHAT FOLLOWS WILL BE A RECKONING.

NEW AVENGERS

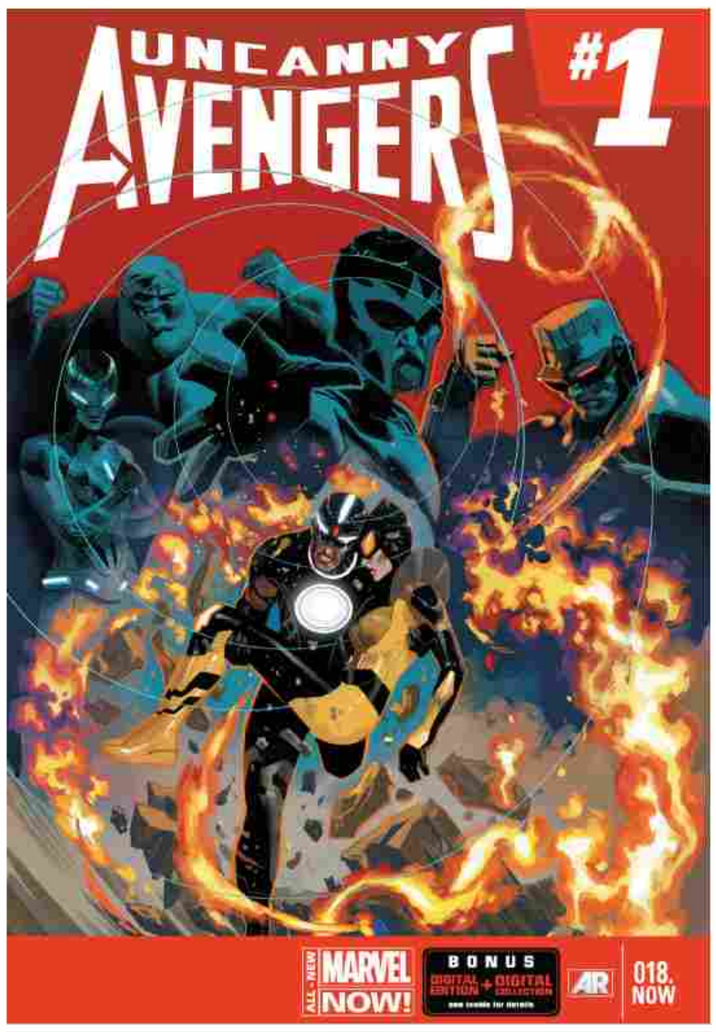
THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

IT'S A BIG MONTH FOR THE AVENGERS AS PART OF **ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!**

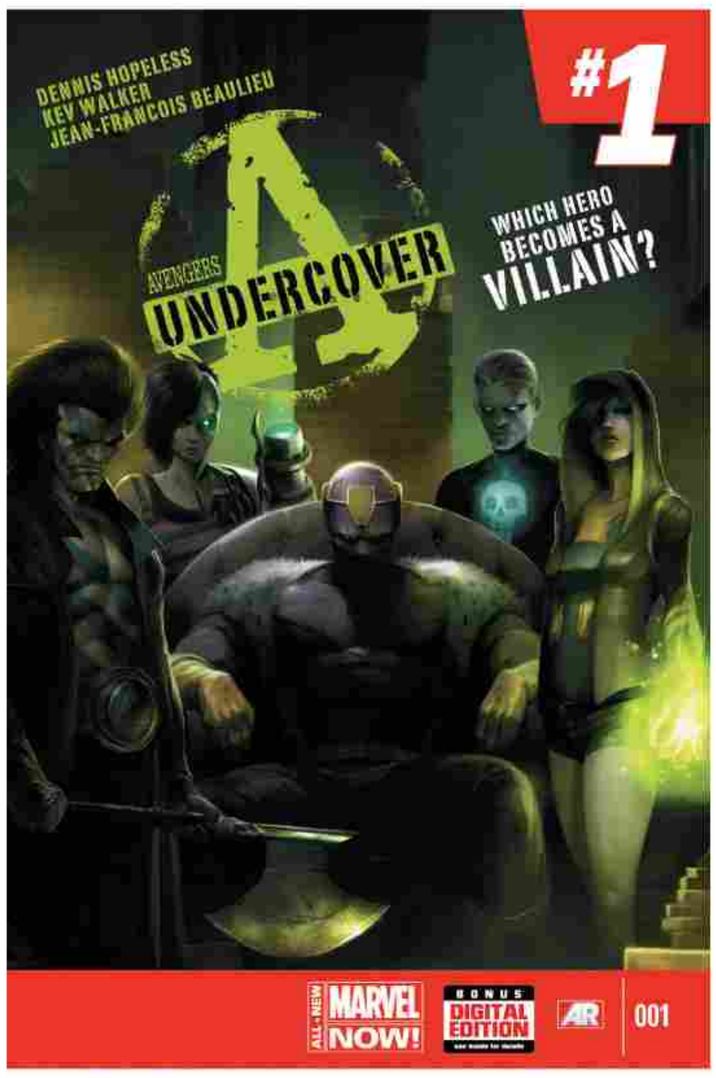


NEW AVENGERS #16.NOW is the beginning of "A PERFECT WORLD" as the Illuminati, searching for a solution to the Incursions from parallel universes, find an Earth that has managed to survive all its Incursions! But to save our planet, must they doom that one? Jonathan Hickman combines powers with artist Rags Morales, doing his first major Marvel work!



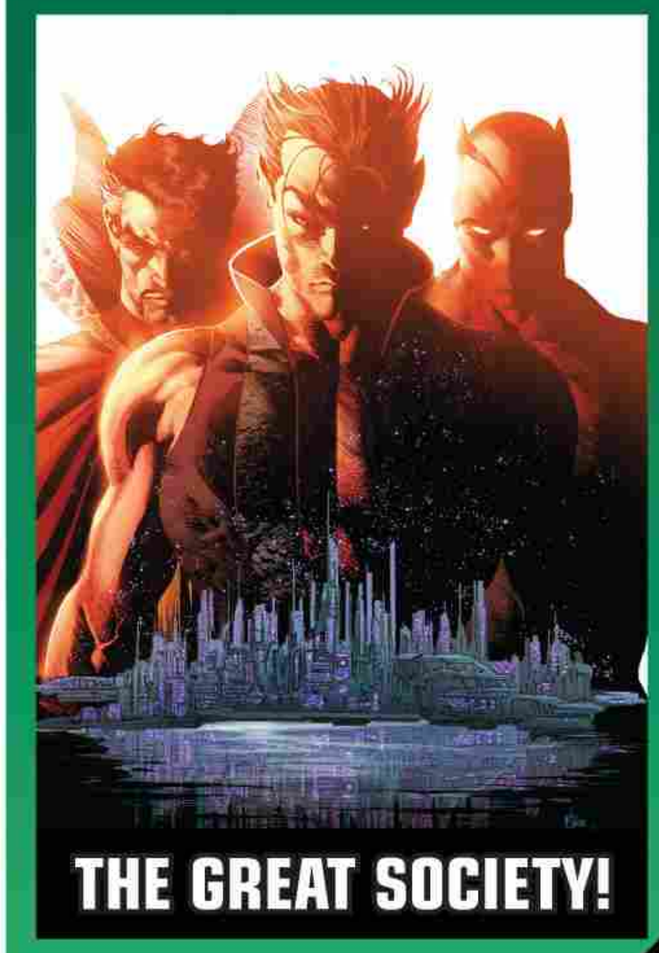
UNCANNY AVENGERS #18.NOW begins "AVENGE THE EARTH!", the third and final chapter of Rick Remender's Apocalypse Twins magnum opus! The human race is gone, Havok is on the run--and wait'll you see returning artist Daniel Acuña's spectacular renditions of Planet X, the new mutant homeworld!

SECRET AVENGERS #1 is the start of a new era for S.H.I.E.L.D.'s covert special missions squad! Spider-Woman is in, Hawkeye is out (but still hanging around) and M.O.D.O.K. is running wild! And in a forgotten satellite, the hero-killing cybiote called The Fury stirs… Ales Kot and Michael Walsh blow the lid off!



In **AVENGERS UNDERCOVER #1**, the survivors of AVENGERS ARENA have to live with the fallout of their actions while in the game! And for one of them, that means seeking out and killing Arcade—even though he's hiding in Bagalia, the super-villain nation! Dennis Hopeless and Kev Walker bring the pain!

NEXT ISSUE:



AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #27
"ADAPT OR DIE!"
SHOUT THE ADAPTOIDS!

AVENGERS A.I. #10
MONICA CHANG AND JOCASTA: ROGUE ROBOT HUNTERS!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #25
ALL-OUT WAR IN NEW YORK CITY! PLUS, SPIDER-GIRL! FINAL ISSUE!

AVENGERS UNDERCOVER #1
WHICH SURVIVORS OF AVENGERS ARENA WILL BREAK BAD?

AVENGERS WORLD #4
STARBRAND FACES HIS WORST NIGHTMARE IN THE CITY OF THE DEAD!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #8
THE BLUE MARVEL'S GREATEST MISTAKE COMES BACK TO THREATEN THE TEAM!

NEW AVENGERS #16
THE ILLUMINATI LOCATE A WORLD THAT HAS DRIVEN OFF THE INCURSIONS! MUST THEY DESTROY IT?

SECRET AVENGERS #1
RUN THE MISSION! DON'T GET SEEN! SAVE THE WORLD!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #18
"AVENGE THE EARTH!" BEGINS ON PLANET X—THE NEW MUTANT HOMEWORLD!

A + X #18
BENDIS WRITES KITTY PRYDE AND THE VISION! DUGGAN FINISHES CAPTAIN AMERICA AND CYCLOPS!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #6

Zone